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IN THE CLAIMS

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim-2 31 wherein ~~the step of adding data~~ storing data in a connection database comprises ~~the steps of:~~

recording a connection requestor identifier to the connection database; and
providing a connection requestor rank to the connection requestor identifier
based on an associated application layer ~~outcome of the application layer connection~~
~~component.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim-2 31 wherein ~~the step of updating the~~
throttle filter with ~~information~~ data from the connection database comprises:
_____periodically replacing throttle filter data with a preselected number of connection
requestor identifiers ranked least desirable in the connection database.

5-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim-4 31 wherein the connection requests
~~is~~ are an HTTP requests, the application layer component is an HTTP connection
component and the transport layer component is a TCP connection component.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim-4 31 wherein the connection requests
~~is~~ are an HTTPS requests, the application layer component is an HTTPS connection
component and the transport layer component is a TCP connection component.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim-42 33 wherein ~~the server connection is~~
each received connection request is for an HTTP server connection, the application
layer connection component is an HTTP connection component, and the transport layer

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connection component is a TCP connection component.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 33 wherein ~~the server connection is~~ each received connection request is for an HTTPS server connection, the application layer connection component is an HTTPS connection component, and the transport layer connection component is a TCP connection component.

15 - 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 33 wherein the connection database is a table ~~in which~~ having entries, each entry ~~has~~ having an IP address of a connection requestor and an associated rank based on an outcome of a connection attempted in response to a connection request from the connection requestor.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein each entry of the table further includes a port number of the connection requestor.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein each entry of the table further includes a virtual routing forwarding table ID of the connection requestor.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 18 wherein each entry in the table includes an entry age, the ~~filter~~ computerized device configured to delete entries having an entry age that exceeds an age threshold.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 33 wherein the throttle filter ~~as indicated by data from the database comprise at least one of~~ comprises:

- a list of IP addresses of connection requestors to be blocked;
- port numbers of connection requestors to be blocked; ~~and~~ or
- a virtual routing forwarding table IDs of connection requestors to be blocked.

23 - 30. (Canceled)

31. (New) A method comprising:

receiving connection requests from connection requestors, each received connection request including an application layer connection component, a transport layer connection component, and requestor information that includes an identifier of a connection requestor;

dropping a connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is found in a throttle filter, the throttle filter being a dynamic filter including a list of identifiers of requestors to be blocked from establishing connections;

proceeding with the application layer component of the connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is not found in the throttle filter;

storing, in a connection database, data about received connection requests including data about application layer outcomes associated with received connection requests that fail to complete a connection; and

periodically updating the throttle filter with data from the connection database.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 comprising:

dropping a connection request when a predetermined limit of created connections has been exceeded or a predetermined rate of connection requests has been exceeded.

33. (New) A system comprising:

a network interface to receive connection requests from connection requestors, each received connection request including an application layer connection component, a transport layer connection component, and requestor information that includes an identifier of a connection requestor; and

a computerized device to:

drop a connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is found in a throttle filter, the throttle filter being a dynamic filter including a list of identifiers of requestors to be blocked from establishing connections;

proceed with the application layer component of the connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is not found in the throttle filter;

store, in a connection database, data about received connection requests including data about application layer outcomes associated with received connection requests that fail to complete a connection; and

periodically update the throttle filter with data from the connection database.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the computerized device drops a connection request when a predetermined limit of created connections has been exceeded or a predetermined rate of connection requests has been exceeded.

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35. (New) A computer program product having a computer-readable medium including computer program logic encoded thereon that, when performed on a computer system directs the computer system to perform the method of:

receiving connection requests from connection requestors, each received connection request including an application layer connection component, a transport layer connection component, and requestor information that includes an identifier of a connection requestor;

dropping a connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is found in a throttle filter, the throttle filter being a dynamic filter including a list of identifiers of requestors to be blocked from establishing connections;

proceeding with the application layer component of the connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is not found in the throttle filter;

storing, in a connection database, data about received connection requests including data about application layer outcomes associated with received connection requests that fail to complete a connection; and

periodically updating the throttle filter with data from the connection database.